

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in this application. Applicant provisionally elects Group I, Claims 1-21 with traverse.

The Office action asserts that the invention recited in Group I, Claims 1-21, and Group II, Claims 22-33 are independent or distinct from the invention recited in Group I, Claims 1-21. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of independent Claims 1 and 22 are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one independent claim would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining independent claim. Specifically, independent Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus for manufacturing decorative moldings. Likewise, independent Claim 22 is directed to a method for manufacturing decorative moldings. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803, which states that “If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.” (Emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office. Thus, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, Claims 1-21 with traverse. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is earnestly solicited. Should Examiner Bareford believe anything further would be desirable in order to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper have already been identified. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper, permission is given to charge account number 50-3145 in the name of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP.

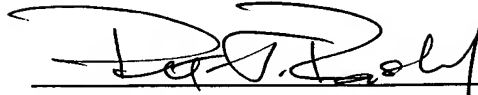
Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 24, 2005

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Rashid", written over a horizontal line.

SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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